

# SOCIOLOGY 330

## SOCIOLOGY OF MEDIA

Fall 2009

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General Education: No  
Prerequisites: None

### Course Objectives:

- 1, Students will understand how structural censorship occurs in the United States.
2. Class will evaluate the importance of a free press for the maintenance of democratic institutions in society.
3. The global concentration of media properties will be evaluated and analyzed.
4. Students will become familiar with independent /alternative news sources.
5. Students will learn methods to research news articles for expanded context and democratic understanding.
6. Class participants will become proficient in using library databases, interview research, and web news sources.
7. The class will evaluate and become familiar with the new global Media and Democracy Movement.
8. Student will learn to give five minute public presentations on important new stories.

### Course Evaluation:

Two News Research Portfolios	35%
Participation and Discussion	25%
Term Paper on Sociology of Media	20%
Final Exam Summary	10%

**Independent News Monitoring:** Students will monitor independent news web sites (see: <http://www.projectcensored.org/resources/index.htm>) and review independent news publications weekly to identify potential news stories and verify limited coverage in the

corporate media. Stories approved for further research will become class research projects.

**Class Research Projects:** Student will conduct an in depth research study on two independent news stories during the semester (on-average full reports are due every other week starting in week four) Research will include full data base checks, consultation with experts in the field, finding of related news stories for context, the building of a portfolio file and a 100 word publishable electronic summary of the story. Class portfolios are graded for completeness and accuracy. Late portfolios or all-at-once-at-the-end will be graded lower.

**Weekly Readings:** Students will come to class prepared to openly discuss the weekly readings. Student teams will sign up to prepare a list of questions lead discussions for 30 minutes each week.

**Term Paper:** Student will complete a 6-8 page paper on Sociology of Media